

CLAIMS

Therefore, at least the following is claimed:

1 1. A method for communications in connection with a computer-based
2 notification system, comprising:

3 initiating a notification communication to a personal communications device
4 associated with a party;

5 receiving a response communication from the party's personal communications
6 device, indicating that the party has received the notification communication and is now
7 occupied with a task associated with the notification communication; and

8 refraining from sending any further notification communications to the party's
9 personal communications device, until detection of one or more events that indicate that
10 the party is no longer occupied with the task and can perform another task associated with
11 another notification communication.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more events comprises at least
2 receipt of a second communication from the party's personal communications device.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more events comprises at least
2 expiration of a predefined time period.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more events comprises at least
2 arrival or departure of a mobile thing at or from a location, respectively.

1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of refraining from
2 sending notification communications to one or more additional personal communications
3 devices.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of initiating the notification
2 communication is performed when a mobile thing is a predetermined proximity with
3 respect to a location.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the steps are performed with a single
2 computer system, a plurality of computers that are communicatively coupled, or a
3 computer system having a distributed architecture.

1 8. A method for communications in connection with a computer-based
2 notification system, comprising:
3 initiating a first notification communication to a personal communications device
4 associated with a party;
5 receiving a response communication from the party's personal communications
6 device;
7 refraining from sending notification communications to the party's personal
8 communications device after receiving the response communication;
9 initiating a second notification communication to the party's personal
10 communications device, one or more other personal communications devices, or both,
11 after detection of occurrence of one or more events.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the one or more events comprises at least
2 receipt of a second communication from the party's personal communications device.

1 10. The method of claim 8, wherein the one or more events comprises at least
2 expiration of a predefined time period.

1 11. The method of claim 8, wherein the one or more events comprises arrival,
2 presence, or departure of a mobile thing with respect to a location.

1 12. The method of claim 8, wherein the one or more events comprises
2 scanning a machine readable code on an object.

1 13. The method of claim 8, wherein the one or more events comprises
2 actuation of a manually or automatically actuated switch that is associated with a mobile
3 thing.

1 14. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of refraining from
2 sending notification communications to one or more additional personal communications
3 devices.

1 15. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of initiating a first notification
2 communication is performed when a mobile thing is a predetermined proximity with
3 respect to a location.

1 16. The method of claim 8, wherein the steps are performed with a single
2 computer system, a plurality of computers that are communicatively coupled, or a
3 computer system having a distributed architecture.

1 17. The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of:
2 monitoring travel data associated with a mobile thing;
3 performing the step of initiating the first notification communication based upon
4 the relationship of a mobile thing to a location; and
5 performing the step of initiating the second notification communication based
6 upon the relationship of the mobile thing or another mobile thing to the location or
7 another location.

1 18. A method for communications in connection with a computer-based
2 notification system and a personal communications device associated with a party,
3 comprising:

4 receiving a notification communication with the personal communications device
5 associated with the party from the notification system;

6 communicating a response communication from the party's personal
7 communications device, indicating that the party has received the notification
8 communication and is now occupied with a task associated with the notification
9 communication; and

10 causing the notification system to refrain from sending any further notification
11 communications to the party's personal communications device, until detection of one or
12 more events, indicating that the party is no longer occupied with the task and can perform
13 another task associated with another notification communication.

1 19. The method of claim 18, wherein the response is generated by a physical
2 action taken by the party associated with the personal communications device.

1 20. The method of claim 18, wherein the response is generated by physically
2 detecting the presence of the party associated with the personal communications device.

1 21. A method for communications in connection with a computer-based
2 notification system, comprising:

3 initiating a notification communication to a personal communications device
4 associated with a party;

5 receiving a response communication from the party's personal communications
6 device; and

7 modifying a manner in which future notification communications are
8 implemented, based upon the response.

1 22. The method of claim 21, wherein the step of modifying comprises
2 refraining from sending notification communications to the party's personal
3 communications device after receiving the response communication, until detection of
4 one or more events.

1 23. The method of claim 22, wherein the one or more events comprises at least
2 one or more of the following: receipt of a second communication from the party's
3 personal communications device; expiration of a predefined time period; or arrival or
4 departure of a mobile thing at or from a location, respectively.

1 24. The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of refraining from
2 sending notification communications to one or more additional personal communications
3 devices.

1 25. The method of claim 21, wherein the step of initiating the notification
2 communication is performed when a mobile thing is a predetermined proximity with
3 respect to a location.

1 26. The method of claim 21, wherein the steps are performed with a single
2 computer system, a plurality of computers that are communicatively coupled, or a
3 computer system having a distributed architecture.

1 27. The method of claim 21, wherein the response is generated by a physical
2 action taken by the party associated with the personal communications device.

1 28. The method of claim 21, wherein the response is generated by physically
2 detecting the presence of the party associated with the personal communications device.

1 29. A method for a notification system, comprising the steps of:
2 scheduling an arrival or departure time for a mobile thing in relation to a stop
3 location;
4 scheduling a notification communication to a personal communications device;
5 monitoring travel data pertaining to the mobile thing;
6 determining that the mobile thing will be delayed in arriving or departing from the
7 stop location;
8 initiating a communication session with a communications device; and
9 during the communication session, reporting a travel status of the mobile thing
10 indicating that the mobile thing will be delayed and enabling cancellation of the
11 scheduled notification communication.

1 30. The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of providing a report
2 regarding travel status of the mobile thing during the communication session.

1 31. The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of comparing planned
2 timing of the mobile thing along a route to updated vehicle status information in order to
3 determine whether the mobile thing will be delayed.